

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

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State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**  
Minutes  
September 30, 2003

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protecting cultural resources; and

providing appropriate public access, public recreation, educational and interpretive opportunities.

A collaborative planning process will be organized to develop the technical studies necessary to design long-term restoration plans and meet these goals in a timely and cost-effective manner. A project management team will be organized under the leadership of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) and will be composed of seventeen State and federal agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Coastal Commission. The California Coastal Conservancy will provide the initial funding for this planning initiative.

In order to ensure the development of a scientifically sound and public supported plan, the project team will establish a technical advisory panel and actively engage all stakeholders including regulatory agencies, conservation groups, local governments and regional planning entities such as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. This substantial new public acquisition will enable all prior planning to be extended and refined, with frequent opportunities for organizations, agencies and individuals to become involved in the planning process. Completion of the initial stage of scientific studies and engineering feasibility analyses is currently anticipated within two to three years.

Information regarding the Ballona Wetlands Restoration project, including meeting notices, technical studies and project updates, will be made available at a future date to the public through the SCRWP website, [www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp](http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp).

#### **Public Availability of Purchase Agreement and Environmental Surveys**

Copies of the full Purchase Agreement, and the environmental surveys of the properties proposed to be acquired are available for viewing by the public during regular business hours at the following locations:

1. Wildlife Conservation Board  
1807 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Sacramento, California 95814  
(916) 445-8448  
Contact: Mary Grande
2. The California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, California 95814  
(916) 653-5656  
Contact: Amanda Soward



November 29, 2005

Chairman Bosco  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, #1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

320 W. Fourth Street  
2nd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213/576-6615  
Fax 213/576-6646  
[www.santamonibay.org](http://www.santamonibay.org)



*Our mission:*

*To restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the Bay's benefits and values*



Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express support for the recommendation that the Conservancy authorize funding the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation to support the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands and to help implement the Santa Monica Bay Plan.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is a state agency created to help restore and protect the Santa Monica Bay. The Ballona Creek watershed is the largest watershed draining into the Bay and is an important priority for the Commission's activities. Over the past few years, the Commission has helped develop a watershed assessment and is working to support implementation of restoration and enhancement projects throughout the watershed and at the wetlands.

This grant will help further all of these activities and help us to implement the Santa Monica Bay Plan. I encourage you to support the recommended authorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shelley Luce".

Shelley Luce, D.Env.  
Executive Director

cc: Mary Small



# ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

### *Looking Back*


The stories you have seen here represent only a small portion of the work done by the Bay Restoration Commission in 2006. We chose these highlights because they embody what we do best: leveraging resources, getting funding where it's needed, brokering partnerships, and pushing state-of-the-art science, policy, and management.

In this fiscal year, the Bay Restoration Commission also oversaw the allocation of \$3.8 million in state bond monies. This year, with money provided by the Commission, 10.5 miles of streams, more than 110 acres of terrestrial habitat, 31 acres of wetland and lagoon habitat, and over 1/3 of an acre of Bay kelp canopy are being restored. Fourteen systems for infiltrating or diverting and treating stormwater—ranging from low flow diversions to permeable parking lots—are being constructed, keeping millions of gallons of contaminated runoff out of the Bay.

In the areas of science and policy, the Bay Restoration Commission provided vital funding for a new research initiative to assess bottlenose dolphin populations in the Bay. We brought scientists together to develop a comprehensive plan for monitoring the health of Bay ecosystems, and worked with local officials to assess the potential for creating official development "buffer zones" around creeks and streams.

The Bay Restoration Commission was elected to the leadership committee for the Los Angeles County Integrated Water Management Plan, and continued its participation with a number of other local and state advisory boards, including the California Clean Beaches Initiative, and the Malibu Creek Watershed Council. We are also continuing our work with the Ballona Creek Task Force and the Ballona Wetlands Restoration working group, where we are leaders in both the technical and consensus-building aspects in the complex task of restoring these important urban environments, and the Malibu Legacy Park technical advisory committee, to which we bring our years of technical and policy experience in septic system impacts to the sensitive Malibu Creek and Lagoon system. In partnership with the California Coastal Conservancy, we hired a full-time coordinator to facilitate restoration planning for the ecologically-important 1,087 acre Ballona wetlands.

Meetings of our Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee regularly brought together elected representatives, agency officials, environmental managers, business representatives, environmental organizations, scientists and other experts to talk about issues facing the Bay. This on-going dialogue is one of the key charges of the Commission, and will continue in 2007 and beyond.



*...leveraging resources, getting funding where it's needed,  
brokering partnerships, and pushing state-of-the-art  
science, policy, and management.*

## GOVERNING BOARD

### Executive Committee

Richard Bloom\*, Mayor, City of Santa Monica (Public Member, At-Large)  
 Tracy Egoscue\*, Executive Director, Santa Monica Baykeeper (Public Member, Public Interest)  
 Mark Gold\*, Executive Director, Heal the Bay (Public Member, Public Interest)  
 Sheila Kuehl, State Senator, 23rd District  
 H. David Nahai\*, Chair, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
 Jack Weiss\*, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles District 5 (President, Bay Watershed Council)  
 Don Wolfe\*, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Linda Adams\*, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency  
 Angus Alexander, Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Division  
 Loris "Ryan" Broddrick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game  
 Julia Brownley, State Assemblymember, 41st District  
 Charles Caspary, President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
 Michael Chrisman\*, Secretary California Resources Agency  
 Ruth Coleman, Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
 John Dorsey, Loyola Marymount University (SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee Chair)  
 Joe Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
 Mike Gin\*, Mayor, City of Redondo Beach (Representative, South Bay Cities)  
 Bob Hoffman, Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries Southwest Division  
 Jeff Jennings\*, Councilmember, City of Malibu (Public Member, At-Large)  
 Ted Lieu, State Assemblymember, 53rd District  
 Ann Northoff\*, California State Coastal Conservancy  
 Jenny Oropeza, State Senator, 28th District  
 Jovita Pajarillo, US EPA Region IX  
 Jeffrey Prang\*, Councilmember, City of West Hollywood (Representative, Ballona Watershed Cities)  
 Rita Robinson\*, Director, Los Angeles City Department of Public Works  
 Bill Rosendahl\*, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles District 11  
 Marvin Sachse\*, Brash Industries (Public Member, Business Interest)  
 Sandra Shewry, Director, California Department of Health Services  
 Rod Spackman, Chevron, Corp. (President, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation)  
 James Stahl\*, General Manager, Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
 Antonio Villaraigosa\*, Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
 Sara Wan, Commissioner\*, California Coastal Commission  
 Dennis Washburn\*, Mayor, City of Calabasas (Representative, Malibu Watershed Cities)  
 Stan Wisniewski, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors  
 Zev Yaroslavsky\*, Supervisor, County of Los Angeles 3rd District (Representative, Board of Supervisors)

Shelley Luce, Executive Director  
 Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director  
 Scott Valor, Director of Government Affairs  
 Mwa Tamanaha, Communications Director  
 Joel Hanson, Administrative Director  
 Jack Topel, Environmental Scientist  
 Stefanie Hada, Environmental Scientist  
 Jessica Hall, Ballona Watershed Coordinator  
 Sean Bergquist, Ballona Wetlands Restoration Coordinator  
 Grace Lee, Boater Education Program Coordinator

*The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is led by a 35-member Governing Board, consisting of 20 voting members, 11 non-voting members, and 4 legislative members. The Governing Board meets six times annually. The Governing Board also elects a 7-member Executive Committee which meets in the month prior to Governing Board meetings.*

*The Commission is advised by a Technical Advisory Committee, made up of scientists, engineers, and other experts, which meets six times annually. The broad stakeholder advisory group of the Commission is the 74-member Bay Watershed Council, which convenes once a year.*

*A great thanks is owed to all those who participate in the Commission, and its mission to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay.*

\* Voting Member of the Governing Board., \* Commission Chair



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission / 320 west 4<sup>th</sup> street, ste 200, los angeles, california 90013  
213/576-6615 phone / 213/576-6646 fax / [santamonica.org](http://santamonica.org)

July 10, 2007

Ms Mary Small  
California Coastal Conservancy  
13th Floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mary,

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, a National Estuary Program of the US EPA, has been pleased to participate in the acquisition and restoration of the Ballona wetlands at all levels over the last several years. We are proud partners in the restoration planning, and currently have one staff member dedicated full time to the planning effort, while I serve on the Ballona Wetlands Science Advisory Committee (SAC). The SMBRC is also an active local partner in the Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and are participating in clean up and restoration plans for Ballona Lagoon, the Grand Canal, Marine del Rey and the Oxford Basin. We have also awarded several millions of dollars of bond monies under our purview to projects designed to improve water quality and habitat in the Ballona Creek watershed. Ballona wetlands restoration is clearly a very high priority of the SMBRC and the EPA.

I have reviewed the restoration design alternatives that are being developed by the consulting team and I am disappointed that they do not fully consider important restoration options, thereby limiting potential habitat, biodiversity and water quality improvements in the wetlands complex. The Ballona SAC requested design alternatives that encompass the "extremes" of restoration planning, i.e. from minimal intervention to maximal structural changes, as well as alternatives in between. The current proposed alternatives do not provide this and need to be modified, or an additional (fourth) alternative is needed.

SMBRC feels that the restoration design for Ballona wetlands must represent a true restoration of maximum ecological functions and services for the area. Actual restoration work will not begin for months or years, and will be a long term and costly process. The best approach is to include design alternatives that are not limited by current infrastructure or fiscal concerns, since these factors will certainly change over the duration of the restoration process. Similarly, factors such as poor water quality in Ballona Creek will continue to change as Total Maximum Daily Loads and other regulatory measures are implemented. It does not serve us to design the restoration as though it would be undertaken and completed in the very near future, under existing physical or financial constraints.

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I would like to request that the design team include at least one design alternative that proposes to

- remove all or part of the levees on one or both sides of Ballona Creek;
- daylight the channel connecting the freshwater marsh to the creek in Area B, and Stingray Creek to Marina del Rey in Area A;
- raise Culver Boulevard to increase flows between the north and south sections of Area B; and
- increase connectivity between Ballona Creek and Areas A and B.

Our staff Wetlands Restoration Manager Sean Bergquist is available to work closely with the consulting team to ensure the revised or new alternatives include features that stakeholders and the SAC members supported. The revised or new alternatives should be presented as one of the group of alternatives for consideration under CEQA and by stakeholders and the SAC.

Given our experience in and commitment to the Ballona wetlands and surrounding interconnected areas, the SMBRC staff, Governing Board and Watershed Council have a great deal to contribute to the restoration process. Please feel free to consult us further during development of the restoration design alternatives and we look forward to continuing our partnership to restore Ballona wetlands.

Sincerely,

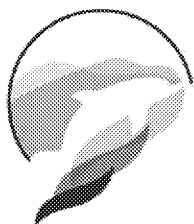
Shelley Luce, D.Env.  
Executive Director

Cc: Jack Liebster, SCC

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**November 18, 2008**

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

## **Re: Southern California Wetland Restoration Projects**

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express support for the proposed grant to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for planning and associated work to support wetland restoration and associated public access improvements at selected State Ecological Reserves in Southern California, including the Ballona Wetlands.

The Department of Fish and Game, the State Lands Commission, the Coastal Conservancy and all of the entities involved in the restoration planning have made significant progress evaluating the feasibility of various restoration approaches. Now that the project is about to start its formal environmental review, it is important the DFG have adequate resources to lead this effort as the primary landowner.

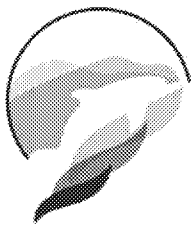
Covering 600 acres, the Ballona Wetlands State Ecological Reserve is the largest wetland on the Santa Monica Bay and its restoration is a high priority of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. I encourage you to support this project as it is a critical piece in helping to eventually restore the Ballona Wetlands.

Very truly yours,

**Shelley Luce, D.Env.**  
Executive Director

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213/576-6615 phone / 213/576-6646 fax / [santamonica bay.org](http://santamonica bay.org)

October 14, 2010

Agenda Item #7

To: Governing Board

From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director

Re: Support for Ballona Wetlands Restoration Process

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

- Approve Resolution Supporting the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Process

## Executive Summary

At the August 19, 2010 Governing Board meeting, the Coastal Conservancy's Mary Small reported on the progress of the Ballona Wetlands restoration effort. In particular, she noted the extent to which the SMBRC was working with the Coastal Conservancy and the California State Department of Fish and Game (DFG), which are the project proponents of record. She noted that restoration planning has been underway since 2006 and there have been more than 40 public meetings in over three years, many of which were coordinated by SMBRC staff.

Small further noted that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process of determining potential environmental impacts is about to begin and that the SMBRC has hired a new staff person (Diana Hurlbert) to help facilitate this effort.

Upon completion of her report, SMBRC Chair Bloom directed staff (without objection from the Governing Board) to prepare a report on the Ballona Wetlands restoration process in order for the Governing Board to consider support of the process.

## Background

The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona) is a 600-acre area representing the largest opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in Los Angeles County. Located between Playa del Rey and Venice, it is owned by the State of California and managed by DFG. The Ballona restoration project includes the State Coastal Conservancy, State Lands Commission and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as planning partners.

The Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project is a long-term, science-based plan to return the Ballona Wetlands into a thriving ecological reserve. Currently, Ballona is highly degraded from Marina del Rey dredge spoil and the severing of its freshwater creek and ocean connection by the Ballona Creek Flood Control Channel. This has resulted in the loss of ecological and hydrological functions, such as the loss of historic native species.

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The goal is for restoration to support healthy, natural ecosystems and maintain freshwater circulation. The effects of restoration include an increase in native species, providing migratory refuge for birds, and serving as an educational resource. Long term benefits of restoration include flood control, improved fish nursery habitat, creation of a safe haven for endangered and threatened species, improved regional air and water quality, and improved public recreational opportunities.

Long term restoration goals include ecosystem restoration (including habitat, biodiversity, physical/chemical processes, and sustainability, as well as social and socioeconomic values (including access, cultural preservation, and recreation).

SMBRC staff and our previously mentioned partners have conducted a baseline assessment, which included physical, chemical, biological, and human activity.

Final decisions on the methods and scope of preservation will be made by the State Coastal Conservancy, DFG, State Lands Commission and the SMBRC. The alternatives informing these decisions were developed by a consultant team (led by Phillip Williams and Associates) with input from the Science Advisory Committee, local stakeholder groups, and the public, wherein alternatives were evaluated against the project's goals. Input for these alternatives came from 20 public meetings and six science advisory meetings.

The Ballona restoration effort is now entering the CEQA/NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Phase which requires participating agencies to identify environmental impacts and, if possible to avoid or mitigate those impacts. A multi-disciplinary team lead by the ICF International consulting firm will begin this process. Restoration is anticipated to begin in 2012 depending on permitting and the CEQA/NEPA requirement fulfillment.

**Budget/Financial Impact**

None

**Requested Governing Board Action**

Consider supporting the process, as described above, to be memorialized by a resolution of the board.

SEE ATTACHED: Draft Resolution



--DRAFT--

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION**  
**October 21, 2010**

**Resolution No. XX-XX**

*Resolution to Support the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Process*

WHEREAS, Restoration of the Ballona Wetlands is the best and largest remaining opportunity to restore coastal wetland habitat in the Santa Monica Bay and is a key objective of the Bay Restoration Plan; and

WHEREAS, The existing wetland habitats are highly degraded with the loss of many ecological and hydrological functions due to historical dredge spoil, channelization, and other human impacts; and

WHEREAS, The restored Ballona Wetlands will support a healthy, natural ecosystem by increasing habitat for native species, enhancing migratory refuge for birds, improving aquatic habitat, and creating a safe haven for endangered and threatened species, and

WHEREAS, The restoration will also help to improve regional air and water quality, enhance flood control capability, improve public recreational opportunities, and generate new educational resources; and

WHEREAS, The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve was established in 2004 after the property was acquired by the State of California for the specific purpose of restoration and conservation of this ecological resource and public amenity; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Reserve, the California State Coastal Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game have been working with the SMBRC to plan and implement the restoration of the wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Since initiation of the restoration planning process, the SMBRC has worked closely with other state, federal, and local agencies and facilitated local stakeholder participation, coordinated technical studies and scientific review, and conducted a comprehensive field survey and baseline assessment; and

WHEREAS, As part of the restoration planning process, the agencies and stakeholders established restoration goals, developed an interim Stewardship and Access Management Plan, completed a restoration feasibility report, refined several restoration alternatives, and conducted comprehensive, site-wide, scientific monitoring of the existing resources; and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) require that agencies identify and analyze the potential environmental impacts of a project and, if possible, avoid and/or mitigate those impacts to the greatest extent feasible when determining and implementing the preferred restoration alternative; and



WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are the lead agencies under CEQA and NEPA, respectively, and

WHEREAS, the SMBRC, with the cooperation of other local and regional stakeholders, is providing assistance to lead agencies by coordinating the necessary environmental review of the project under NEPA and CEQA.;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission hereby supports the process that has been established and that is ongoing for the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission continues its participation with the restoration process lead agencies and other participating agencies and stakeholders until the restoration process is completed.

---

Richard Bloom,  
Chair, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission



# bay restoration commission

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213/576-6615 phone / 213/576-6646 fax / [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov)

January 26, 2012

Dr. Cindy Lin ([lin.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:lin.cindy@epa.gov))  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Southern California Field Office  
600 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1460  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: DRAFT BALLONA CREEK WETLANDS TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS FOR SEDIMENT AND  
INVASIVE EXOTIC VEGETATION.

Dear Dr. Lin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Total Maximum Daily Load for sediment and invasive exotic vegetation at Ballona Wetlands. The Ballona Wetlands area is a critical natural resource in urbanized west Los Angeles County, surrounded by more than ten million residents and associated urban development. It has suffered enormous degradation due to channelization, fill and other impacts. We support the draft TMDL and believe it will address impairments and achieve the beneficial uses of the Ballona Wetlands.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is a state commission and a National Estuary Program of the USEPA under Clean Water Act Section 320. We work to restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values. Repairing habitat and restoring beneficial uses at the Ballona Wetlands are high priorities in our Bay Restoration Plan, which was updated and adopted by our Governing Board in 2008. We are partnering with state agencies, local NGOs, schools, and businesses to educate the public about the wetlands and to plan and implement a science-based restoration project for Ballona Wetlands.

The Ballona Wetlands restoration planning effort, led by the Department of Fish and Game and the State Coastal Conservancy, has been in progress since 2005. The planning effort is a science-based approach and the primary goal is to "restore, enhance, and create estuarine habitat and processes in the Ballona Ecosystem to support a natural range of habitat and functions, especially as related to estuarine dependent plants and animals."<sup>1</sup> The restoration project is being planned to achieve beneficial uses at the site to the maximum extent possible within the constraints of the substantial urban development and infrastructure that surround it. An important component of restoring

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<sup>1</sup> Ballona Wetlands Restoration Plan: Goals and Objectives. July 2006 viewed 1/25/12 at [www.ballonarestoration.org](http://www.ballonarestoration.org).

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In addition to the recommendations above, we have one further comment on the TMDL related to climate change. The science-based planning process for the Ballona Wetlands restoration project considers climate change and predicts that future habitat proportions may alter over the next 100 years. Specifically, sea level rise may alter the relative elevations and therefore shift marsh and transition habitats to mudflat or intertidal habitats. The restoration is being designed to accommodate these changes but cannot eliminate them. The TMDL could contain some language that reflects an understanding that eventual changes may occur in the habitat proportions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Ballona Creek Wetlands TMDL for Sediment and Invasive Exotic Vegetation. Please feel free to contact Dr. Shelley Luce ([sluce@santamonicabay.org](mailto:sluce@santamonicabay.org)) or Karina Johnston ([kjohnston@santamonicabay.org](mailto:kjohnston@santamonicabay.org)) to discuss our comments further.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce, D.Env  
Executive Director  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Karina Johnston, M.S.  
Restoration Ecologist and Project Manager  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**among the**  
**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**and the**  
**STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY**  
**and the**  
**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION**  
**and**  
**THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION**  
**regarding**  
**RESTORATION PLANNING FOR THE BALLONA WETLANDS**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is by and between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, hereinafter called the "Department," the State Coastal Conservancy, hereinafter called "SCC," the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, hereinafter called "SMBRC," and The Annenberg Foundation, hereinafter called the "Foundation." The Department, SCC, SMBRC, and Foundation are collectively the "Parties." The Department, SCC, and SMBRC are collectively the "Public Agencies." This MOU is for the purpose of defining the objectives and planning processes for the collaborative development of an innovative public/private partnership to facilitate the possible creation of an interpretive center and related public access amenities that would greatly improve the benefit to the public of the proposed restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve ("BWER"). One goal of the Parties is that this collaboration could serve as a model for similar joint efforts that are intended to facilitate the implementation of public projects while incorporating philanthropic partners and community programs. This MOU memorializes the Parties' understanding concerning their expectations, goals, and objectives related to the BWER, and as such, is not intended to create any legal obligation between or among any of the Parties.

WHEREAS, Section 1580 of the Fish and Game Code states that the policy of the State of California is to protect threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, or aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types, both terrestrial and nonmarine aquatic, or large heterogeneous natural gene pools through the establishment of ecological reserves; and

WHEREAS, the Department, SCC, SMBRC, and the State Lands Commission ("SLC") are undertaking the Ballona Wetland restoration project (the "Restoration Project") for lands owned by the State of California adjacent to Ballona Creek near the Santa Monica Bay, a total of



- f) Restoring and improving the existing Little League Fields in Area C.

### III. PROJECT PLANNING MANAGEMENT

A Ballona Interpretive Center management team consisting of staff from the Department, SCC, SMBRC, and the Foundation (collectively the "Management Team") will develop a meeting schedule in order to coordinate activities and resolve issues related to reviewing the feasibility and planning the design of the Ballona Interpretive Center including any regulatory changes required to accommodate the Ballona Interpretive Center within BWER. Upon signing this MOU, the Management Team members will provide to the Foundation all of the relevant documentation reasonably requested by the Foundation to permit the Foundation to plan and design the Ballona Interpretive Center. If the siting of the Ballona Interpretive Center is deemed feasible within Area C by all members of the Management Team, and subject to any required environmental review, the Foundation will seek to enter into a long-term lease, operating agreement, or other mutually acceptable arrangement that will allow it to construct and operate the Ballona Interpretive Center within Area C. Along with such agreement would be a proposed "Public Access, Management and Operating Plan" for the Ballona Interpretive Center that would be developed by the Foundation with input from the Management Team. Any final Public Access, Management and Operating Plan would require mutual approval by the Department and Foundation. The Department and Foundation agree to cooperate on all required local, state or federal permits, approvals, and environmental review necessary to construct and operate the Ballona Interpretive Center consistent with the Foundation's objective to commence construction by 2014.

The Department and Foundation further agree to collaborate on matters that the Parties agree are necessary to facilitate development of the Ballona Interpretive Center or the Restoration Project. Such collaboration could include consideration of legislation that would authorize the Department to lease the Ballona Interpretive Center site to the Foundation for a term of not less than fifty (50) years.


Consistent with II.(d.) above, the Management Team will also collaborate on a public education campaign related to the Restoration Project which would include the Ballona Interpretive Center project.

The Parties acknowledge the environmental review process for the Restoration Project is underway. The Department agrees to conduct a project-level review of the Ballona Interpretive Center's environmental effects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as an integrated part of the Restoration Project. Accordingly, the Foundation agrees to provide the Department with information required to prepare a legally defensible environmental review of the Ballona Interpretive Center project and alternatives as required under CEQA. In the event that analyzing the Ballona Interpretive Center's project as an integrated part of the Restoration Project necessitates additional environmental review that otherwise would not have been required without the Ballona Interpretive Center project, the Foundation and the Department agree to discuss additional funding from the Foundation for the reasonable costs of such additional environmental review. Additional environmental review includes: revising and recirculating a draft environmental impact report ("EIR"), preparing a supplemental EIR, preparing a subsequent EIR, and preparing an addendum to an EIR.

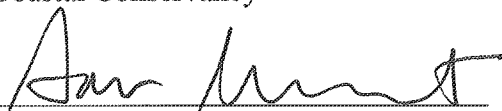
#### IV. AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

This MOU can only be amended or modified by a written agreement duly executed by all of the signatory parties: the Department, SCC, SMBRC, and the Foundation. This MOU will terminate automatically at the conclusion of the planning process, defined for the purpose of this MOU as execution of a lease, operating agreement, or other mutually acceptable arrangement that would allow the Foundation to construct and operate the Ballona Interpretive Center on Area C. This MOU may be terminated by the Department, SCC, SMBRC, or the Foundation with 60 days notice, during which time the Parties agree to meet in good faith to try to resolve any differences.

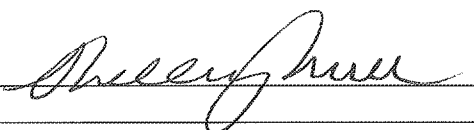
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

By:  Date: Jan 28, 2013  
Its: Director

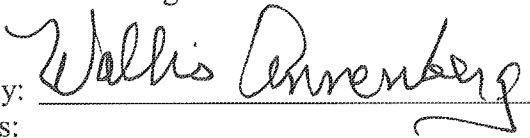
State Coastal Conservancy

By:  Date: 1/28/13  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

By:  Date: Jan. 28, 2013  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

The Annenberg Foundation

By:  Date: 1/28/13  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exhibit B

April 2013	Circulation of Draft EIR or other CEQA document with project-level review of the Ballona Interpretive Center
December 2013	Publication of Final EIR or other CEQA document with project-level details of the Ballona Interpretive Center
January 2014	Certification of EIR and potential approval of Department and Foundation Agreements
December 2014	Issuance of any other permits necessary to commence construction of the Ballona Interpretive Center
August 2016	Completion of construction for Ballona Interpretive Center



## bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission / 320 west 4<sup>th</sup> street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013  
213/576-6615 phone / 213/576-6646 fax / [santamonica bay.org](http://santamonica bay.org)

May 21, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Attn: Mary Small

Subject: Proposed grant to develop a wetland carbon sequestration protocol

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to support the Coastal Conservancy's proposed grant of \$50,000 to Winrock International to develop a carbon sequestration protocol for coastal and Delta wetlands in California. I applaud the Conservancy's leadership in advancing this important work and urge you to approve the funding for this project.

Wetlands are known and well-documented for providing multiple benefits including critical habitat for plant and animal species, water quality improvement, and flood protection. However, what has not been widely recognized and therefore underappreciated is that wetlands also sequester significant amounts of carbon and help to alleviate global warming. The proposed project will quantify this additional benefit for different types of wetlands in California through development of a peer-reviewed protocol, which can be used to link wetland restoration and the state's emerging carbon market. Implementation of this project is truly a win-win for the environment as it will both help to mitigate the impacts of climate change and create a potential funding mechanism for restoration of the State's wetland habitats..

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission has been actively engaged in protection and restoration of remnant coastal wetlands in Southern California including the 800-acre Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Like many other potential restoration projects in the State, funding shortage is the main obstacle to achieve full restoration of the Ballona Wetlands. We are excited about the

*our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values*





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potential restoration funding that the proposed project will generate and are pleased to offer our full support for its implementation.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce, Ph.D. Env.  
Executive Director  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

*our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values*



**From:** [Charlotte Miyamoto](#)  
**To:** ["Diana Hurlbert"](#); [McCormick, Donna](#); [Mayfield, Rick@Wildlife](#)  
**Cc:** [rlmayfield@hotmail.com](#); [Barry Kurtz](#); [Michael Tripp](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Area A Parking Questions  
**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 7:35:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [Elevations from Fiji Way.pdf](#)

---

Hello all. Attached is the parking structure conceptual sketch with elevations. Also, below are DBH/Barry Kurtz' answers to the questions shown in bold.

Thanks much.

Charlotte Miyamoto  
(310) 305-9512

-----Original Message-----

From: Diana Hurlbert [<mailto:dhurlbert@santamonicabay.org>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 4:40 PM  
To: McCormick, Donna; Rick Mayfield ([rmayfield@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:rmayfield@dfg.ca.gov))  
Cc: [rlmayfield@hotmail.com](mailto:rlmayfield@hotmail.com); Charlotte Miyamoto; Barry Kurtz; Michael Tripp  
Subject: RE: Area A Parking Questions  
Importance: High

Hi Donna,

I will take a crack and answering some of your questions below and have Cc'd Rick Mayfield and the County folks so they can help fill in the gaps....D

Diana Hurlbert  
Restoration Project Coordinator  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
[dhurlbert@santamonicabay.org](mailto:dhurlbert@santamonicabay.org)  
Office - 310-216-9899  
Cell - 831-241-3463

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From: McCormick, Donna [[Donna.McCormick@icfi.com](mailto:Donna.McCormick@icfi.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 3:42 PM  
To: Diana Hurlbert  
Subject: Area A Parking Questions

Hi Diana:

Here are the questions I have about the B&H parking project now. If all these could be answered I could complete the project description and probably have everything we need for analysis.

Area C by the AF team, such as air and lock-ups. I am hoping that AF/DFW will look into having a bike share program for the Reserve where people could check a bike out from this and Area C and leave them in either area. Maybe it is something that BH would be interested in doing too and link it to the rest of the Marina

**BK – The bike station would be strategically located at a location served by a Culver City Bus Line, the Marvin Braude Bicycle Trail, the most heavily used bicycle path in Los Angeles County, and Fisherman’s Village, a major attraction in the region. It is close to other bus lines including Metro buses and Santa Monica’s Big Blue Bus along Admiralty Way and Lincoln Boulevard.**

5. Is this going to be a paid parking lot? If so, what collection system would be used? If not, how will you keep people headed for Fisherman’s Village parking there for free?

DH - DFW/County to answer....I don't know if they want to charge for people to visit the Reserve

**DBH – It will be a paid parking structure using pay stations. Parking rates will be consistent with the rates for public parking throughout the Marina.**

6. What are the proposed hours of operation? How will it be secured?

DH - DFW/County

**DBH – The parking structure will likely have opening and closing times, but they are yet undetermined It will be secured with a gate arm.**

7. Who will operate & maintain the facility?

DH - DFW/County

**BK - DBH will operate and maintain the facility.**

8. Will we get elevations? Will we get heights?

DH – County

**DBH – A sketch of the parking structure with elevations and heights is attached.**

9. What materials will be used? (Assuming concrete, but any special aesthetic treatment?)

DH – County

**DBH – The building will be constructed of concrete. The design, materials, colors, signage, lighting and landscaping for the parking structure will need to be approved by the Marina del Rey Design Control Board.**

restoration of Area A....can't speak to the timing of the garage being built....

**DBH – The County would build the structure within a timeframe that compliments the overall construction schedule for the larger Ballona Wetlands project.**

Donna

DONNA McCORMICK | Principal | 949.333.6611 (direct) | 949.929.3536 (mobile) |  
[dmccormick@icfi.com](mailto:dmccormick@icfi.com)<<http://kiosk.jsanet.com/signature/>> | icfi.com<<http://www.icfi.com/>> ICF  
INTERNATIONAL | 1 Ada, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92618 | 949.333.6601 (fax) P Please consider the  
environment before printing this e-mail.



## Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission decides to leave watershed task force

The Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force has a 10-year history of delivering innovative, well-conceived planning documents. The Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan and Ballona Creek Greenway Plan are still used today as sources of information and ideas for projects to clean up the water and create habitat and recreation opportunities along Ballona Creek.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) has coordinated the bi-monthly meetings of the task force for the last decade or so, providing a forum for information sharing and discussion of environmental issues and projects. It is an important function, appreciated by local stakeholders, and SMBRC has been committed to providing it.

Our decision earlier this month to withdraw from the task force comes after several years of trying to manage extremely disruptive people who have used the meetings to attack others professionally and personally, and promote their own fringe agendas. Such environmental red herrings are easily ignored except in a small meeting room where a handful of disrespectful individuals are determined that only their pet peeves will be aired, at the expense of all other people's interests.

The worst of these meetings have involved attacks and accusations of embezzlement, fraud and other crimes, as well as juvenile insults, directed at staff of the SMBRC and guest speakers at the meetings. As professionals, we do not respond to ludicrous charges or personal

affronts, but we do get tired of them. When public discourse degenerates into childish playground scrapping, we do not participate and certainly cannot spend our limited resources in providing a forum for it.

There is good news, though. The planning for the Ballona Wetlands restoration project is going extremely well, and we are proud to be a part of it. The result will be a beautiful, 600-acre oasis for people and wildlife. The walking trails, overlooks, learning areas and expanses of open space being considered would transform this abused urban space into a treasure of the Southern California coastline. The task force has no impact on the wetlands restoration planning, which has enormous community support.

Other good news: The notes of support we have received since our decision to withdraw from the task force show there is an engaged community of people who continue to devote time and energy to environmental planning and activism in the Ballona Watershed. They are still committed to the goal of transforming the concrete waterway into a lush and healthy greenway for all to enjoy.

The SMBRC is here to help and will enthusiastically participate in future efforts with productive and positive stakeholders and partners. We look forward to it.

Dr. Shelley Luce  
Executive Director  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration  
Commission

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## The Argonaut wants to hear your opinions

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**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1 SUP. KNABE, CHAIRMAN: THANK YOU. NEXT?

2

3 JACK NEFF: I'M JACK NEFF, I'M SPEAKING TO YOU IN TWO  
4 CAPACITIES TODAY. ONE IS AS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE  
5 GABRIELINO TONGVA SPRINGS FOUNDATION, WE HAVE BEEN  
6 ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE COUNTY. THANK YOU, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
7 FOR HEARING ME ON THIS. THE ISSUE IS OF FRESH WATER RUNNING  
8 FROM THE WATERSHED, INCLUDING THE GABRIELINO TONGVA SPRINGS IN  
9 WEST LOS ANGELES, THE COLDWATER CANYON BASIN, CENTINELLA CREEK  
10 BASIN. ALL THE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRESH WATER THAT COME  
11 ANNUALLY TO THE L.A. BASIN ARE BEING LUMPED IN THIS M.O.U.  
12 TOGETHER WITH THE GARBAGE, THE REFUSE, THE POLLUTION THAT  
13 ACCUMULATES WITH THE FRESH WATER AND USES THE FRESH WATER TO  
14 DRIVE IT DOWN TOWARDS BALLONA CREEK. SO IN THAT REGARD, PLEASE  
15 REMOVE THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM FROM THE  
16 M.O.A. PERSONALLY, I FEEL IT'S TAKING THE STAGING AREA USED BY  
17 THE PROPOSED BULLDOZING PLAN WILL IMPACT THE WETLANDS  
18 NEGATIVELY, HARM WILDLIFE AND TAKE A PUBLIC SPACE AWAY. THANK  
19 YOU.

20

21 SUP. KNABE, CHAIRMAN: NEXT AND I ASK KEN MINAULT TO JOIN US  
22 PLEASE.

23

24 SHELLEY LUCE: I'M DR. SHELLEY LUCE, AND I'M THE DIRECTOR OF  
25 THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION. WE HAVE BEEN



**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND  
2 WILDLIFE AND THE STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY ON THE BALLONA  
3 WETLANDS SINCE ABOUT 2005 AND WE'RE MOSTLY SCIENTISTS ON OUR  
4 STAFF. SO WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE  
5 ASSESSMENT OF THIS 600-ACRE PUBLICLY OWNED PARCEL. THE ANNUAL  
6 REPORTS FROM THOSE ASSESSMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE IF  
7 YOU'RE INTERESTED. AND THEY'VE GIVEN US A REALLY GOOD  
8 UNDERSTANDING OF THE RESOURCES THAT ARE AT THE BALLONA  
9 WETLANDS TODAY. SO PART OF OUR WORK HAS BEEN TO CONDUCT PUBLIC  
10 OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ON THAT INFORMATION. WE HOLD SCIENTIFIC  
11 SYMPOSIA EVERY YEAR. WE CONDUCT TOURS. WE'VE HAD DESIGN  
12 CHARRETTES AND OTHER TYPES OF WORKSHOPS TO GET PUBLIC INPUT.  
13 AND WE ARE NOW ALSO HELPING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND  
14 WILDLIFE AND THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY TO COORDINATE THE MANY  
15 LOCAL AGENCIES AND CONSULTANTS WHO ARE DOING IF COMPLICATED  
16 ANALYSES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
17 IMPACT STATEMENT. SO WE'RE VERY EXCITED TO BE MOVING THIS  
18 PROCESS FORWARD. IT IS NOT QUICK, BUT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT  
19 BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA DESERVE THE BEST POSSIBLE  
20 PROJECT AT THIS LOCATION. SO I HOPE THAT YOU WILL APPROVE  
21 TODAY'S MOTION TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ARMY CORPS TO  
22 MAKE SURE WE GET THE BEST POSSIBLE ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT  
23 ALTERNATIVES.

24

From: Svensson, Joshua  
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:36 AM  
To: Grant, Terri; Hildebrand, Gary  
Cc: Chebab, Youssef; Flores, Adriana; Lim, Christian J.; Tacconelli, Linda;  
Vidanagama, Tharake; Ariki, Menerva  
Subject: Meeting Notes: Ballona Wetlands

Please see my notes below. Let me know if you have any comments/corrections, etc.  
-Josh

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project  
Meeting with US Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Kimberly Colloton

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
12th Floor Conference Room, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District  
915 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90017

Attendees (25):

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission: Shelley Luce (Director)  
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife: Terri Stewart (Environmental Programs Manager), Richard Brody (Land Manager, Ballona Reserve)  
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works: Mark Pestrella, Gary Hildebrand, Terri Grant, Josh Svensson  
California State Coastal Conservancy: Mary Small (Deputy Executive Officer), Christopher Kroll (Project Manager)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Colonel Kimberly Colloton, David Von Dorpe (Deputy District Engineer), Rick Leifield (Chief-Engineering), Josephine Axt (Chief-Planning), Larry Minch (Counsel), Funke Ojuri (Civil Engineer), David Castanon (Chief-Regulatory), Aaron Allen (Branch Chief-Regulatory), Dan Swenson (Section Chief-Regulatory), Terri Kaplan (Chief-Asset Mgmt.), Phil Serpa (Project Manager-Asset Mgmt.), Bonnie Rogers (Regulatory), Jodi Clifford, Ken Wong, Lilian Danporri, Bri McGuffie

Action Items:

1. Colonel Colloton signs WRDA Agreements (USACE)
2. LACDPW issues checks to USACE (LACDPW)
3. USACE and LACDPW schedule WRDA kick-off meeting (LACDPW)
4. USACE and Ballona project team schedule Ballona kick-off meeting (Coastal Conservancy)
5. USACE develops project management plan for Ballona project (USACE)
6. USACE and Ballona team prepare organizational charts of all participating staff (All)
7. Ballona team provide updated documents from Submittal A to Corps (Coastal Conservancy)
8. Ballona team prepares timeline of regulatory actions and authorities (Conservancy/USACE)

Key Items Discussed

- \* Colonel Colloton: We need to have quarterly "touchpoint" meetings to make sure this effort is staying on track
- \* David Von Dorpe: We (the Corps) owes you our commitment to meet our promised schedule, cost, and scope of work, to make sure you're comfortable with the substantial investment your making into this review
- \* Mark Pestrella increased the LACDPW's commitment to \$240,000; the overall budget is now \$542,020
- \* None of the USACE staff said the proposed 18-24 month schedule was impossible, but many of them expressed concerns with the several potential delays that could come from environmental and technical complexities of the project.

Detailed Meeting Notes

## 1. Introductions of Agencies and Roles

### \* CA DFW (Terri Stewart)

- \* We purchased land in 2004, we own land, we are CEQA lead, co-applicant for 408 permit
- \* Our goal is to restore wetland functions, create wetlands, protect and enhance habitat for sensitive species, address climate change, also we have a mandate for public use and education.
- \* Brody is our land manager

### \* LACDPW (Mark Pestrella)

- \* We are operators of the channel, maintain the channel under easement, applicant for 408 permit.
- \* This is our most significant 408 permit application ever
- \* The Board of Supervisors supports this project, we are excited about this project, it's in line with the LACFCD's mission
- \* We recognize the controversy and are committed to thorough and transparent review

### \* CA Coastal Conservancy (Mary Small)

- \* We administer the bond funds from prop 12 supporting project development
- \* Have been involved in planning efforts for many years

### \* SMBRC (Shelley Luce)

- \* We have been public face of project, serving as project coordinator.
- \* We overlook wetlands, have been performing scientific research and comprehensive bio assessment for 8 years
- \* We see this project as a way to connect the land back to the ocean, want to set the levees back, provide equal or better flood protection
- \* Diana Hurlbert (project manager) recently left, but we plan to rehire someone soon

## 2. US Army Corps of Engineers Staff Comments

### \* Rick Leiffield (Engineering Chief) -

- \* Sole authority of Corps to review and approve modifications to infrastructure constructed by Corps, no matter who is current operator
- \* This permit will need to go to Washington DC for review and approval

- \* Col. Colloton: "I think we should get the guys from DC to come out here rather than all of us going out there"

- \* Funke Ojouri will be 408 technical lead
- \* Phil Serpa will be primary point of contact for 408 permit review

### \* Aaron Allen (Regulatory Chief)

- \* Ken Wong will be Planning division point of contact

- \* Phil: but Ken's time is not budgeted in 408 WRDA 214 estimate (??)

- \* 408 will require technical NEPA review, but will also require substantial environmental review

- \* This project is more complicated than just a 404 or a 408 permit alone

- \* Dan Swenson will be Regulatory point of contact

### \* David Castanon (Regulatory Chief)